

# **Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Environmental Assessment**

## **Public Hearing**

**Libby City Hall, Libby, MT**

**June 12, 2019 - 6:00 pm**

### TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED

Mark Peck, Lincoln County Commissioner: "I guess both as a citizen and a commissioner. But it's more, do you need my address? You know as a county commissioner working through this process, you know, on the phase 1, um ya know, working with Stimson, knowing the way they do, the things that you're concerned about, extreme site management and I don't have those concerns. I used to. I used to be the head for MT DNRC. So I can tell you agencies watch those things very closely as well. So uh, um, and these guys don't want to screw up their own land, I can tell you that so. But uh, I'm supporting of it. I think in the long term, it's good for outdoor recreation, it's good for hunting and fishing access. As well as the economy. It will ensure some level of timber management capability in this area in the perpetuity."



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
MONTANA

Kris Tempel

[ktempel@mt.gov](mailto:ktempel@mt.gov)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

490 North Meridian Road

Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Montana BHA Supports the Kootenai Forest Lands Conservation Easement

The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers represents more than 3,000 sportsmen and women concerned with maintaining fish and wildlife habitat and traditional, non-motorized hunting and fishing opportunities. Our Montana Chapter includes many members who hunt and fish in the Kootenai National Forest and the surrounding timber lands.

Montana BHA strongly supports the conservation easement to permanently protect public access and critical wildlife habitat on the 22,295 acres in the greater Libby area. Habitat connectivity is vital to maintaining healthy populations of big game animals, threatened and endangered species, and our native fisheries.

Hunter numbers continue to decline in Montana and across the country. Lack of access to hunting land is often cited as the main reason hunters are giving up the sport. Lumber companies are also continuing to sell off their holdings across the West, meaning lands that were once available to hunters and anglers are now off limits. Montana has long enjoyed a relationship with lumber companies that provide public recreational access to their private timber lands. Many families in northwest Montana have been hunting and fishing on these lands for generations, and protecting public access and wildlife habitat will ensure that future generations will be able to continue to enjoy these very same places.

Montana BHA greatly appreciates the efforts of FWP and Stimson Lumber Company in protecting important wildlife habitat - including vital winter range - and securing continuing public access in the Big Sky State.

Sincerely,

Molly Elliott, Region 1 Board Member – Columbia Falls, MT

Aaron Agosto, Member – Kalispell, MT

The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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[WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/MONTANA\\_BHA](http://WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/MONTANA_BHA)  
[MONTANA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG](mailto:MONTANA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG)

6-25-2019

Kris Tempel  
490 North Meridian Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Stimson Conservation EASEMENT, 22,295 Acres.

GREETINGS:

Stop paying Stimson for doing nothing.  
If Stimson has not yet granted an easement (county)  
across their property to Alford Lake (Troy Area),  
then absolutely deny this conservation easement.  
This issue goes back over 20 yrs and involved  
an agreement between Forest Service, Lincoln County, and  
Plum Creek which sold their land to Stimson.

Conservation & Stimson seems like an oxymoron.  
Some of Stimson's logged land around Troy & near  
Alford Lake is a mess.

Stimson has not been a good neighbor to Troy,  
I doubt that it will be any different in Libby.

**NO MORE FREE MONEY FOR STIMSON!**

Conservation Easements keep Southern  
Lincoln County poor.

Lincoln County in Libby & Troy need  
some subdivision to create a tax base.  
NAME & Address withheld due to FEAR of  
Reprisal.

Kris Tempel, FWP  
490 North Meridian Road  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

June 26, 2019

Request For Extended Comment Period

When I got into town and got the Montanain with ~ County commissioners approached about FWP conservation easement sought for "Stimson Land", I see I do not have time to file opposition and hereby request an extended comment period.

This is the same land Stimson offered along with the plywood mill, et al, in 2003 for which I had lenders ready for my acquisition but Stimson chose a low-ball offer from county commission who could not raise the money for that except by overtaxing property owners for ten years, destroying the timber industry to apply for available federal grants.

Since that property is rightfully mine, I would have been a better steward for using it as they now claim to intend. And saved the economy including our 97 year timber history Stimson flushed down the pot for a low-ball.

It is unconscionable to once again saddle taxpayers with the bill to enable Stimson's failed business practices. They had a sale.

For Sane Prosperity, I am ....

Stanley H. Davis

Stanley H. Davis Executive Productions, LLC.

3264 Iron Creek Road

Troy, Montana 59935-9529

June 28, 2019

Kris,

Luckily/Damn (circle one only), I never throw anything away.

Print outs from county tax rolls showed all Stinson property in the area and market value assessments.

Stinson wanted \$6 Million for the fully operational plywood mill and all of the land they are offering FWP. The tax rolls listed all of the land at a few hundred thousand dollars. Stinson was avoiding cleanup costs that our superfund site covered and was dumping all holdings.

Your employers need you to explain why you are willing to pay the price for a fully operational plywood mill plus a few hundred thousand dollars worth of land getting us only a few hundred thousand dollars worth of land.

That does not compute.

Stanley H. Davis

**From:** [Harvey E. Nyberg](#)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Libby Conservation Easement  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2019 6:26:41 PM

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I strongly support this project. Not only does it maintain good wildlife habitat and provide critical public access to these and adjacent public lands, it reinforces the message that sustainable forest management and wildlife conservation are compatible.

Great job.

Harvey Nyberg  
Leistown, MT

**From:** [LIBBYGUY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LIBBYGUY@GMAIL.COM)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2019 6:37:02 AM

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Name: MALCOLM EDWARDS

City: LIBBY

I fully support this proposal for the conservation easement !

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This e-mail was generated from the 'Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

**From:** [dorianboling@gmail.com](mailto:dorianboling@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Saturday, June 1, 2019 6:12:11 AM

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Name: Dorian

City: Libby

I support FWP . I do not want Stumps on to develop the land they own around Libby. I want it to stay open to the public

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This e-mail was generated from the 'Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

**From:** [dorianboling](#)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Stimpson lands  
**Date:** Saturday, June 1, 2019 6:09:40 AM

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Dear Chris,

I am in support of FWP concerning Stimpson land. I do not want to see all that land developed. I want it to stay open to the public

Dorian Boling

Powered by Cricket Wireless

**From:** [otisranch@wispwest.net](mailto:otisranch@wispwest.net)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 6:15:24 AM

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Name: Bert Otis

City: Emigrant

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks Commission,

I support Alternative A, the proposed action for FWP to Acquire a Conservation Easement on the 22,295 acres currently owned by Stimson Lumber. I would also like to Thank, Stimson Lumber their support in this project.

Bert Otis

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This e-mail was generated from the 'Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

**From:** [m.scott@magi-cake.com](mailto:m.scott@magi-cake.com)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 1:49:41 PM

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Name: M. S. Ryan

City: Libby

I have completely read this proposal and I am entirely Against it.

I feel it would reduce the available local lands for growth and development, which in the long run will lessen the available property tax base, forcing higher taxes on those of us who currently own private property in Lincoln Co.

I vote for NO ACTION!

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This e-mail was generated from the 'Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

**From:** [sara@magi-cake.com](mailto:sara@magi-cake.com)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 1:52:26 PM

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Name: Sara Ryan

City: Libby

I do not believe this to be a good policy nor good use of MT hunter dollars. I am against it.

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This e-mail was generated from the 'Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment' Public Notice Web Page.

**From:** [tjmcnew@gmail.com](mailto:tjmcnew@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Tempel, Kris](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2019 12:51:37 AM

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Name:

City: Libby

It would be nice if the land could be open to ATV use as well as other recreation. Is that possible? Off road motorized vehicle trails are limited in the area and a large number of people here enjoy ATV riding.

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